

1 DANIEL L. WARSHAW (Bar No. 185365)
2 dwarshaw@pswlaw.com

3 **PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP**
4 15165 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 400
5 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
6 Telephone: (818) 788-8300
7 Facsimile: (818) 788-8104

8 MELISSA S. WEINER (*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*)
9 mweiner@pswlaw.com

10 JOSEPH C. BOURNE (Bar No. 308196)
11 jbourne@pswlaw.com
12 **PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP**
13 800 LaSalle Avenue, Suite 2150
14 Minneapolis, MN 55402
15 Telephone: (612) 389-0600
16 Facsimile: (612) 389-0601

17 ALEXANDER L. SIMON (Bar No. 305734)
18 asimon@pswlaw.com
19 **PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP**
20 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2450
21 San Francisco, CA 94104
22 Telephone: (415) 433-9000
23 Facsimile: (415) 433-9008

24 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Dianne King*

25 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
26 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION**

27 DIANNE KING, on behalf of herself
28 and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:18-cv-10173

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Dianne King (“King” or “Plaintiff”) brings this class action against
 2 Defendant Marriott International, Inc. (“Marriott” or “Defendant”). Plaintiff makes
 3 the following allegations upon personal knowledge as to her own acts, and upon
 4 information and belief and the investigation of her attorneys as to all other matters,
 5 and alleges as follows:

6 **STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

7 1. On November 30, 2018, Marriott announced a massive customer data
 8 security breach affecting 500 million customers who stayed at Starwood-brand hotel
 9 properties between 2014 and late 2018 (hereinafter the “Data Breach”).¹

10 2. The Data Breach is unprecedented in its scope and duration.
 11 Approximately 500 million consumers were affected. The database containing the
 12 stolen customer information was compromised for a period of at least four years—
 13 from 2014 to late 2018.

14 3. The Data Breach is also unprecedented in its severity and resulting
 15 safety and security implications. The database contained information on
 16 approximately 500 million consumers who made a reservation at a Starwood
 17 property, including personally identifiable information (“PII”), payment card
 18 information (“PCI”), digital copies of government-issued identification (such as
 19 driver’s licenses and U.S. passports), and additional information such as arrival and
 20 departure information and dates of reservations (“Travel Information”) (collectively,
 21 “Customer Data”). The compromised PII puts consumers at heightened risk of
 22 identity theft and fraud. The compromised PCI puts consumers at heightened risk of
 23 payment card and financial account-related fraud losses. And the compromised
 24 Travel Information, in addition to enhancing those other risks, also creates an
 25

26 ¹ Marriott International, *Starwood Guest Reservation Database Security Incident*,
 27 <https://answers.kroll.com/> (last visited Dec. 3, 2018).
 28

1 unprecedented risk of *physical intrusion or physical harm*. Put simply, the Customer
2 Data was stolen by criminals for misuse. Marriott handed those criminals not only
3 the information to pretend to be those consumers, or to rack up charges to their
4 financial accounts, but also to know when they would be away from home and
5 exactly where and when they would be.

6 4. For all 500 million affected consumers who were harmed by the Data
7 Breach, the stolen Customer Data included their name and some combination of
8 other data such as their mailing address, email address, password to the Starwood
9 reservations system, or other information. For 327 million of those consumers, the
10 stolen Customer Data also included some combination of their name, mailing
11 address, phone number, email address, passport number, Starwood Preferred Guest
12 (“SPG”) account information, date of birth, gender, arrival and departure
13 information, reservation date, and communication preferences. For an undisclosed
14 number of those consumers, the stolen Customer Data includes payment card
15 numbers and payment card expiration dates.²

16 5. If Marriott had simply employed reasonable, industry standard data
17 security practices, the Data Breach would not have occurred or would have been
18 discovered promptly.

19 6. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and the members of the
20 proposed class defined below (the “Class”), seeking compensatory damages for the
21 actual harm they have suffered and injunctive relief for the real and immediate harm
22 they will likely suffer in the future.

23 **THE PARTIES**

24 **Plaintiff**

25 _____

26 ² Marriott has either been unwilling or unable to disclose how many consumers had
27 PCI stolen.

1 7. Plaintiff Dianne King is an individual and resident of Beverly Hills,
2 California.

3 8. Plaintiff King and her husband jointly own four Starwood-brand
4 timeshares, which they owned during the Class Period (defined below) and continue
5 to own. Plaintiff King stays at Starwood-brand hotels, stayed there during the Class
6 Period and will continue to stay there in the future. Plaintiff King has frequently
7 used SPG points to pay for hotel stays; in those transactions she has also provided
8 and used credit card information to pay for incidental charges.

9 9. Plaintiff King generally booked her hotel stays by calling the Starwood
10 Platinum desk and occasionally booked online.

11 10. Plaintiff King received an email from Marriott advising her that her
12 Customer Data was stolen in the Data Breach.

13 11. Plaintiff provided her Customer Data to Marriott—including by
14 providing it to Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, LLC (“Starwood”)—with
15 the understanding that Marriott would keep her information secure, employ
16 reasonable and adequate security measures to ensure that hackers would not
17 compromise her Customer Data, and notify her promptly in the event of a breach.

18 **Defendant**

19 12. Defendant Marriott International, Inc., is a Delaware corporation with
20 its principal place of business located at 10400 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, Maryland
21 20817.

22 13. Marriott is a leading global lodging company with more than 6,700
23 properties across 130 countries and territories, with reported revenues of more than
24 \$22 billion in fiscal year 2017.

25 14. On November 16, 2015, Marriott announced its plan to acquire
26 Starwood. The merger closed on September 23, 2016. The transaction was for a
27 reported \$14 billion, and it made Marriott the largest hotel operator in the world.

28 15. Before it was acquired by Marriott, Starwood owned or operated eleven

1 hotel brands: W Hotels, St. Regis, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Westin Hotels &
 2 Resorts, Element Hotels, Aloft Hotels, The Luxury Collection, Tribute Portfolio, Le
 3 Méridien Hotels & Resorts, Four Points by Sheraton, and Design Hotels. Starwood
 4 also owned or operated Starwood-branded timeshare properties (collectively, the
 5 “Starwood Properties”).

6 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 16. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
 8 § 1332(d)(2) because this is a class action, there is minimal diversity, and the
 9 amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs.

10 17. The Court has personal jurisdiction because Defendant does substantial
 11 business throughout the State of California, including this District, Defendant owns
 12 hotels or other properties in this District, and Plaintiff’s claims arise out of
 13 Defendant’s contacts with California and this District.

14 18. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff resides
 15 in this District, Defendant directed its business activities at residents of this District,
 16 and a substantial part of the acts and omission giving rise to Plaintiff’s claims
 17 occurred in this District.

18 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

19 **Marriott Collects and Promises to Safeguard Customer Data**

20 19. Marriott collects massive amounts of Customer Data from its customers
 21 as a matter of course. According to Marriott’s Privacy Statement,³ this Customer
 22 Data includes: name; gender; postal address; telephone number; email address;
 23 credit and debit card number or other payment data; other financial information;
 24 language preference; date and place of birth; government-issued identification data,
 25

26 ³ The Marriott Group, *Marriott Group Global Privacy Statement* (May 18, 2018),
 27 <https://www.marriott.com/about/privacy.mi> (last visited Dec. 3, 2018).
 28

1 including but not limited to nationality, passport, or visa; important dates, such as
2 birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions; membership or loyalty program
3 data; employer details; travel itinerary, tour group, or activity data; prior guest stays
4 or interactions, goods and services purchased, and special service and amenity
5 requests; geolocation information; and social media account ID, profile picture, and
6 other social media data.

7 20. “In more limited circumstances,” Marriott’s Privacy Statement advises,
8 it may also collect additional information, including: data about family members and
9 companions, such as names and ages of children; biometric data, such as digital
10 images; images and video and audio data collected via security cameras or body-
11 worn cameras; and guest preferences and personalized data, such as interests,
12 activities, hobbies, food and beverage choices, and services and amenities
13 preferences.

14 21. Marriott collects this Personal Data in various ways, including: when
15 consumers use online services (for example, when a customer makes a reservation
16 or purchase or otherwise communicates with Marriott); when consumers use
17 customer care centers (via phone, email, or online chat); through owners and
18 franchisees; from authorized licensees; from strategic business partners; by
19 collecting it from other sources, such as public databases, joint marketing partners,
20 and other third parties; and by collecting it from internet-connected devices and
21 physical and mobile location-based services.

22 22. Marriott recognizes its obligation to safeguard Customer Data, and
23 consumers’ reasonable expectation that it will do so. For instance, Marriott’s
24 Privacy Statement claims that “we respect your privacy.”

25 23. Marriott’s Privacy Statement indicates that it will use Customer Data
26 only in certain, limited ways: to provide the services requested by consumers; to
27 personalize services according to consumers’ personal preferences; to communicate
28 with consumers about goods and services according to their personal preferences; to

1 manage consumers' participation in its loyalty program; to offer participating in
2 sweepstakes, activities, events, and promotions; and for business purposes such as
3 "data analysis, audits, security and fraud monitoring and prevention."

4 24. Marriott's Privacy Statement indicates that it will disclose Customer
5 Data only to a limited set of specific, authorized third parties. These include other
6 companies within the Marriott Group, owners and franchisees, strategic business
7 partners, and service providers.

8 25. Marriott's Privacy Statement promises "to use reasonable
9 organizational, technical and administrative measures to protect Personal Data."

10 26. Marriott's Privacy Statement incorporates by reference its Privacy
11 Shield Guest Privacy Policy.⁴ The Privacy Shield Guest Privacy Policy is largely
12 consistent with the Privacy Statement. It also reiterates and expands upon Marriott's
13 promise to safeguard Customer Data: "We use reasonable physical, electronic, and
14 administrative safeguards to protect your Personal Data from loss, misuse and
15 unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction, taking into account the
16 nature of the Personal Data and the risks involved in processing that information."

17 27. Marriott is correct to recognize that its customers place high value on
18 data security and privacy. Plaintiff and the Class members would not have stayed at
19 the Starwood Properties, used their payment cards, or otherwise provided their
20 Customer Data to Marriott if they had known that Marriott did not take reasonable
21 and necessary steps to safeguard their Customer Data.

22 **An Unauthorized Third Party Stole the Customer Data**

23 28. The Data Breach affects approximately 500 million consumers who
24 made reservations at Starwood Properties between 2014 and late 2018.

25
26 ⁴ Marriott International, Inc., *Marriott U.S. Privacy Shield Guest Privacy Policy*
27 (May 18, 2018), <https://www.marriott.com/about/global-privacy.mi> (last visited
28 Dec. 3, 2018).

1 29. All 500 million affected consumers had some Customer Data stolen,
2 including their name and some combination of other data such as their mailing
3 address, email address, or other information.

4 30. For 327 million consumers, the stolen Customer Data also included
5 some combination of their name, mailing address, phone number, email address,
6 passport number, SPG account information, date of birth, gender, arrival and
7 departure information, reservation date, and communication preferences.

8 31. For an undisclosed number of consumers, the stolen Customer Data
9 includes payment card numbers and payment card expiration dates.

10 **Marriott Did Not Discover the Data Breach for Four Years**

11 32. According to Marriott, the Data Breach began no later than an
12 unspecified time in 2014.

13 33. On September 8, 2018, Marriott received an alert from an internal
14 security tool that there was an attempt to access the Starwood guest reservation
15 database (the “Database”).

16 34. Marriott claims that the last unauthorized access that was part of the
17 Data Breach occurred on or before September 10, 2018.

18 35. During the course of its investigation, Marriott discovered that there
19 was unauthorized access to the Starwood network dating back to 2014. Marriott also
20 learned that an unauthorized party had copied and encrypted information, and that
21 the unauthorized party took steps toward removing it from the Starwood network.
22 On November 19, 2018, Marriott decrypted the information and determined that the
23 contents were from the Database.

24 **Marriott Failed to Use Reasonable Data Security Practices**

25 36. If Marriott had used reasonable data security practices, the Data Breach
26 would not have occurred, or if it had occurred, its duration and scope would have
27 been far less severe.

28 37. For example, if Marriott used an intrusion detection and prevention

1 platform to protect the Customer Data, this breach could have been avoided.
2 Suspicious activity could have been identified and intrusion prevented. Furthermore,
3 the significant length of time between the breach and discovery suggest that Marriott
4 failed to employ routine pattern analyses to troll for data breaches.

5 38. Furthermore, given the sensitive nature of the data Marriott collected, it
6 should have had in place a robust data loss prevention platform, which if properly
7 monitored could have safeguarded this data. Marriott admits in its statement that an
8 external unauthorized party was able to move and then encrypt sensitive customer
9 data in preparation for egress from the Marriott network.

10 39. If Marriott did employ an intrusion detection and prevention platform
11 and a data loss prevention platform, they were not properly configured or managed.

12 40. A data loss prevention tool is an industry standard practice for
13 protecting sensitive data—which applies, at minimum, to PCI, passports, and travel
14 patterns and bookings. Because Marriott maintained the Customer Data in a single
15 Database, it needed to treat *all* of the Customer Data as sensitive.

16 41. A data loss prevention tool should have preemptively identified the
17 movement of the sensitive data within the Database before it was extracted.

18 42. Even if Marriott did not use a data loss prevention tool, the sheer
19 duration of the Data Breach proves that Marriott failed to employ reasonable and
20 competent data security practices.

21 43. Technology security company FireEye has a metric called “breach to
22 discovery.” This measures the median time between when a data security breach
23 first occurs and when it is detected. The median breach to discovery time period has
24 shrunk in recent years from over 365 to under 100 days.

25 44. The fact that it took Marriott *four years* or more to detect the Data
26 Breach, when the median discovery period is *under 100 days*, demonstrates that
27 Marriott failed to employ reasonable, industry standard data security practices to
28 safeguard the Customer Data.

1 45. It is inconceivable that it would have taken four years to discover the
2 Data Breach if Marriott had, for example, employed a “Hunter team,” which would
3 proactively and iteratively search through networks to detect and isolate advanced
4 threats. Use of a hunter team is appropriate when protecting sensitive data on a large
5 scale, as Marriott did—or was supposed to.

6 **The Customer Data Is Valuable to Criminals**

7 46. PII data is highly coveted and a frequent target of hackers. PII data may
8 be less protected and regulated than other data, such as PCI, and so it is often easily
9 taken.

10 47. PII is frequently sought by criminals. For instance, in the widely
11 publicized Target data breach, in addition to stealing PCI relating to 40,000 payment
12 cards, hackers also stole PII pertaining to 70,000 customers.

13 48. Biographical data is also highly sought by data thieves. Biographical
14 data gained from multiple sources is increasingly used to perpetrate more and larger
15 thefts. For example, “synthetic identity theft” occurs when thieves create new
16 identities by combining real and fake identifying information, and then using those
17 identities to open new accounts. Synthetic identity theft is harder to unravel than
18 traditional identity theft.

19 49. PCI is heavily regulated. The Payment Card Industry Data Security
20 Standard (“PCI DSS”) is a set of requirements designed to ensure that companies
21 maintain consumer payment card information in a secure environment. It is a basic
22 requirement of PCI DSS to protect stored cardholder data.

23 50. PII and PCI are more valuable when they are taken together.

24 51. Illicitly obtained PII and PCI are sold on the black market as products
25 at a set price.

26 52. Because of the value of PII and PCI, there have been numerous data
27 breaches in the hospitality industry in recent years, including several hotel chains.
28 Following the Wyndham data breach, the Federal Trade Commission even brought

1 an action against Wyndham based on its failure to provide reasonable protection for
2 customer data. As a result, Marriott either knew or should have known of the
3 importance of safeguarding the Customer Data. But despite that knowledge,
4 Marriott opted to maintain an insufficient and inadequate system to protect the
5 Customer Data.

6 **The Data Breach Will Result in Identity Theft and Fraud**

7 53. The Customer Data was stolen for a reason: it is valuable in the hands
8 of those who will misuse it. It allows criminals to commit identity theft and fraud,
9 which will continue to occur using the Customer Data.

10 54. Identity theft occurs when someone uses another person's PII to
11 commit fraud or other crimes. As many as 10 million people in the United States
12 have their data stolen every year. Once identity thieves have personal information
13 like the Customer Data that was stolen in this case, they can drain bank accounts,
14 run up or open new credit cards, open new utility accounts, get medical treatment on
15 your health insurance, or submit fraudulent tax returns to obtain tax refunds.

16 55. Identity thieves can commit various types of government fraud,
17 including immigration fraud, obtaining a driver's license in the victim's name but
18 with another's picture, obtain government benefits, or file a fraudulent tax return to
19 obtain a fraudulent refund.

20 56. Some of this activity may not become known for years. Indeed, in some
21 instances, it may not occur for years. That is particularly true when, as here,
22 protection services are provided to victims for a fixed period, such as the one year
23 that Marriott has offered to provide Web Watcher services to its affected customers.

24 57. Once identity theft is detected, fixing it is not easy. It takes many
25 victims months to resolve the problems caused by identity theft. It takes some up to
26 a year.

27 **The Data Breach Is Dangerous to Plaintiff and Class Members**

28 58. The Marriott Data Breach is not a "typical" data breach. It did not

involve only PII and PCI, although that is bad enough. Instead, it also contained Travel Information, such as arrival and departure information and dates of reservations.

59. With this sensitive Travel Information, a criminal who wishes to target a particular individual could use pinpointed travel information such as the location of upcoming hotel reservations, down to the city and particular dates of travel—including even expected time of arrival and departure.

60. If this criminal wished to rob the person's home, it would be much easier, knowing that they were not home and would not be returning.

61. Further, and even more terrifying, if this criminal instead wished to physically attack a person, it would be easier knowing where they would be, particularly dates away from home.

62. These risks associated with the Travel Information gave Marriott all the more reason to take the necessary steps to safeguard the Travel Information and the rest of the Customer Information that it stored together in a single Database. Marriott, however, did not.

Plaintiff and the Class Members Suffered Damages

63. Marriott's failure to properly safeguard Plaintiff and Class members' Customer Data directly and proximately caused the Data Breach.

64. As a direct and proximate result of Marriott's wrongful actions and inaction and the resulting Data Breach, Plaintiff and Class members have been placed at an imminent, immediate, and continuing increased risk of harm from identity theft and identity fraud and threat to their personal safety. Plaintiff and Class members must take the time and effort to mitigate the actual and potential impact of the Data Breach on their lives by placing "freezes" and "alerts" with credit reporting agencies, contacting their financial institutions, closing or modifying financial accounts, and closely reviewing and monitoring their credit reports and accounts for unauthorized activity.

1 65. Plaintiff and the Class members have suffered, and continue to suffer,
2 economic damages and other actual harm for which they are entitled to
3 compensation, including:

- 4 a. theft of their personal and financial information;
- 5 b. the imminent and certainly impending injury flowing from
6 potential fraud and identity theft caused by their passport,
7 payment card, and personal information being placed in the
8 hands of criminals;
- 9 c. the improper disclosure of their private information;
- 10 d. loss of privacy;
- 11 e. ascertainable losses in the form of out-of-pocket expenses and
12 the value of the time reasonably incurred to remedy or mitigate
13 the effects of the Data Breach;
- 14 f. ascertainable losses in the form of deprivation of the value of
15 their PII and PCI, for which there is an established national and
16 international market;
- 17 g. overpayments to Marriott for products and services purchased, in
18 that a portion of the price paid for such products and services
19 was for the costs of reasonable and adequate safeguards and
20 security measures to protect their Customer Data—which
21 Marriott did not provide; and
- 22 h. the loss of use of and access to their account funds and costs
23 associated with the inability to obtain money from their accounts
24 or being limited in the amount of money they were able to obtain
25 from their accounts.

26 66. While Plaintiff and the Class members' Customer Data has been stolen,
27 the same (or a copy of the same) Customer Data continues to be held by Marriott.
28 Plaintiff and the Class members have an interest in ensuring that this information is

1 secured and remains secured and will not be subject to further theft.

2 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

3 67. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2), (b)(3), and (c)(4) of the Federal Rules of
4 Civil Procedure, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit on behalf of herself and on behalf of
5 the proposed nationwide class (the “Class”) defined as follows:

6 All persons residing in the United States whose Customer
7 Data was disclosed in the Data Breach during the Class
8 Period.

9 68. Maryland law should apply extraterritorially in this case because
10 Defendant is headquartered in Maryland; the decisions, actions, and inactions
11 causing in the Data Breach occurred in Maryland; and Maryland has the greatest
12 interest in regulating Defendant’s conduct.

13 69. If, however, the Court declines to apply Maryland law nationwide, then
14 Plaintiff seeks—in the alternative—certification of a proposed California subclass
15 (the “California Subclass”) pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2), (b)(3), and (c)(4), defined as
16 follows:

17 All persons residing in California whose Customer Data
18 was disclosed in the Data Breach during the Class Period.

19 70. Excluded from the Class are Defendant and any entities in which
20 Defendant or its subsidiaries or affiliates have a controlling interest; Defendant’s
21 officers, agents, and employees; and all persons who make a timely election to be
22 excluded from the Class. Also excluded from the Class are the judges and court
23 personnel in this action and any members of their immediate family.

24 71. The “Class Period” is defined as the period during which the Data
25 Breach occurred, from 2014 through September 10, 2018. Plaintiff reserves the right
26 to redefine the Class Period if discovery shows that the Data Breach occurred
27 for a longer or different period of time than Defendant has so far disclosed.

28 72. **Numerosity:** The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of

1 all Class members would be impracticable. Plaintiff reasonably believes that Class
 2 members number in the millions or hundreds of millions of people. Defendant has
 3 acknowledged that the information of approximately 500 million customers was
 4 compromised in the Data Breach. The names and addresses of the Class members
 5 are identifiable through documents Defendant maintains.

6 **73. Commonality and Predominance:** This action involves common
 7 questions of law or fact, which predominate over any questions affecting individual
 8 Class members, including:

- 9 a. Whether Defendant owed a legal duty to Plaintiff and Class
 10 members to exercise due care in collecting, storing, and
 11 safeguarding their Customer Data;
- 12 b. Whether Defendant breached a legal duty to Plaintiff and Class
 13 members to exercise due care in collecting, storing, and
 14 safeguarding their Customer Data;
- 15 c. Whether Defendant had an implied contractual obligation to use
 16 reasonable security measures in safeguarding the Customer Data;
- 17 d. Whether Defendant breached its implied contractual obligation
 18 to use reasonable security measures in safeguarding the
 19 Customer Data;
- 20 e. What security measures Defendant must use to comply with its
 21 implied contractual obligation and legal duty to safeguard
 22 Customer Data;
- 23 f. Whether Defendant knew or should have known of the
 24 susceptibility of its computer systems to a data breach;
- 25 g. Whether Defendant's security measures to protect its computer
 26 systems were reasonable in light of industry data security
 27 standards and recommendations;
- 28 h. Whether Defendant willfully, recklessly, or negligently failed to

1 maintain and execute reasonable procedures designed to prevent
 2 unauthorized access to Plaintiff's and Class members' Customer
 3 Data;

- 4 i. Whether Plaintiff's and Class members' Customer Data was
- 5 accessed, exposed, compromised, or stolen in the Data Breach;
- 6 j. Whether Defendant was negligent in failing to implement
- 7 reasonable and adequate security procedures and practices;
- 8 k. Whether Defendant's failure to implement adequate data security
- 9 measures allowed the breach of its computer systems to occur;
- 10 l. Whether Defendant's conduct, including its failure to act,
- 11 resulted in or was the proximate cause of the breach of its
- 12 systems, resulting in the loss of Plaintiff's and Class members'
- 13 Customer Data;
- 14 m. Whether Defendant's conduct constituted deceptive trade
- 15 practices;
- 16 n. Whether Defendant's conduct violated the Maryland Consumer
- 17 Protection Act;
- 18 o. Whether Defendant's conduct violated the Maryland Personal
- 19 Information Protection Act;
- 20 p. Whether Defendant's conduct violated the California Customer
- 21 Records Act;
- 22 q. Whether Defendant's conduct violated the California Unfair
- 23 Competition Law;
- 24 r. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to equitable
- 25 relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive relief; and
- 26 s. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages or
- 27 other monetary relief, and the amount thereof.

28 74. Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the

1 the legal rights sought to be enforced by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the
2 Class members. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business
3 practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by
4 comparison, in both quantity and quality, to the numerous common questions that
5 dominate this action.

6 75. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of Class members' claims
7 because, among other things, Plaintiff and Class members were injured through
8 Defendant's substantially uniform misconduct. Plaintiff is advancing the same
9 claims and legal theories on behalf of themselves and Class members, and there are
10 no defenses that are unique to Plaintiff's claims. Plaintiff's and Class members'
11 claims arise from the same operative facts and are based on the same legal theories.

12 76. **Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiff is an adequate representative
13 of the Class because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the other Class
14 members she seeks to represent; Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and
15 experienced in complex class action litigation, including data privacy and data
16 security practices litigation; and Plaintiff will prosecute this action vigorously for
17 the benefits of the Class. Class members' interests will be fairly and adequately
18 protected by Plaintiff and their counsel.

19 77. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to any other available means for
20 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are
21 likely to be encountered in the management of this matter as a class action. The
22 damages, harm, or other financial detriment suffered individually by Plaintiff and
23 Class members is relatively small compared to the burden and expense that would
24 be required to litigate their claims on an individual basis against Defendant, making
25 it impracticable for Class members to individually seek redress for Defendant's
26 wrongful conduct. Even if Class members could afford individual litigation, the
27 court system could not. Individualized litigation would create a potential for
28 inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increase the delay and expense to all

1 parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer
 2 management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies
 3 of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

4 78. Further, Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally
 5 applicable to the Class and, accordingly, final injunctive or corresponding
 6 declaratory relief with regard to the members of the Class as a whole is appropriate
 7 under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

8 79. Likewise, particular issues under Rule 23(c)(4) are appropriate for
 9 certification because such claims present only particular, common issues, the
 10 resolution of which would advance the disposition of this matter and the parties'
 11 interests therein. Such particular issues include, but are not limited to, whether
 12 Defendant utilized reasonable data security practice and whether Defendant is liable
 13 for its misconduct.

14 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

15 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

16 **Negligence**

17
 18 80. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
 19 each and every allegation set forth the in the preceding paragraphs of this
 20 Complaint.

21 81. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to exercise reasonable
 22 care in obtaining, retaining, securing, safeguarding, deleting, and protecting their
 23 Customer Data in its possession from being compromised, lost, stolen, accessed, and
 24 misused by unauthorized persons. This duty included, among other things,
 25 designing, maintaining, and testing Defendant's security system to ensure that
 26 Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data in Defendant's possession was adequately
 27 secured and protected. Defendant further owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to
 28 implement processes that would detect a breach of its security system in a timely

1 manner and to timely act upon warnings and alerts, including those generated by its
2 own security systems.

3 82. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to provide security,
4 consistent with industry standards and requirements, to ensure that its computer
5 systems and networks, and the personnel responsible for them, adequately protected
6 the Customer Data of Plaintiff and the Class.

7 83. Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and the Class because they
8 were foreseeable and probable victims of any inadequate security practices.
9 Defendant solicited, gathered, and stored the Customer Data of Plaintiff and the
10 Class to use that information for its own business purposes. Defendant knew it
11 inadequately safeguarded such information on its computer systems and that hackers
12 routinely attempt to access this valuable data without authorization. Defendant had
13 prior notice that its systems were inadequate by virtue of the earlier breaches that
14 preceded this one, but it continued to maintain those inadequate systems to the
15 ultimate detriment of its customers like Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant knew or
16 should have known that a breach of its systems would cause damages to Plaintiff
17 and the Class and Defendant had a duty to adequately protect such sensitive
18 personal and financial information.

19 84. Defendant owed a duty to timely and accurately disclose to Plaintiff
20 and the Class that their personal and financial information had been or was
21 reasonably believed to have been compromised. Timely disclosure was required,
22 appropriate, and necessary so that, among other things, Plaintiff and the Class could
23 take appropriate measures to avoid unauthorized charges to their credit or debit card
24 accounts, cancel or change usernames and passwords on compromised accounts,
25 monitor their account information and credits reports for fraudulent activity, contact
26 their banks or other financial institutions that issue their credit or debit cards, obtain
27 credit monitoring services, and take other steps to mitigate or ameliorate the
28 damages caused by Defendant's misconduct.

1 85. Defendant knew, or should have known, the risks inherent in collecting
2 and storing the Customer Data of Plaintiff and the Class, and of the critical
3 importance of providing adequate security of that information.

4 86. Defendant's own conduct also created a foreseeable risk of harm to
5 Plaintiff the Class. Defendant's misconduct included, but was not limited to, its
6 failure to take steps and opportunities to prevent and stop the data breach as set forth
7 herein.

8 87. Defendant breached the duties it owed to Plaintiff and the Class by
9 failing to exercise reasonable care and implement adequate security systems,
10 protocols, and practices sufficient to protect the personal and financial information
11 of Plaintiff and the Class.

12 88. Defendant breached the duties it owed to Plaintiff and the Class by
13 failing to properly implement technical systems and security practices that could
14 have prevented the loss of the Customer Data.

15 89. Defendant breached its duties to Plaintiff and the Class to timely and
16 accurately disclose that Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data in Defendant's
17 possession had been or was reasonably believed to have been stolen or
18 compromised.

19 90. Defendant's failure to comply with its legal obligations by causing
20 delay between the date of intrusion and the date Defendant disclosed the data breach
21 further evidences Defendant's negligence in failing to exercise reasonable care in
22 safeguarding and protecting Plaintiff's and Class's Customer Data in Defendant's
23 possession.

24 91. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breach of its duties owed
25 to Plaintiff and the Class, their Customer Data would not have been compromised.

26 92. The injury and harm suffered by Plaintiff and the Class, as set forth
27 above, was the reasonably foreseeable result of Defendant's failure to exercise
28 reasonable care in safeguarding and protecting Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer

1 Data within Defendant's possession. Defendant knew or should have known that its
 2 systems and technologies for processing, securing, safeguarding, and deleting
 3 Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data were inadequate and vulnerable to being
 4 breached by hackers.

5 93. Plaintiff and the Class suffered injuries and losses described herein as a
 6 direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct resulting in the data breach,
 7 including Defendant's lack of adequate and reasonable security measures. Had
 8 Defendant implemented such adequate and reasonable security measures, Plaintiff
 9 and the Class would not have suffered the injuries alleged, as the Data Breach would
 10 likely have not occurred.

11 94. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligent conduct,
 12 Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury and are entitled to damages in the
 13 amount to be proven at trial.

14 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

15 **Breach of Implied Contract**

16
 17 95. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
 18 each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this
 19 Complaint.

20 96. Defendant represented to Plaintiff and the Class, in its Privacy
 21 Statement and Privacy Policy, that it would use reasonable and adequate measures
 22 to protect their Customer Data and to safeguard their privacy.

23 97. Plaintiff and the Class shared personal information with Defendant,
 24 such as dates of birth, passport numbers, credit and debit cards numbers and other
 25 payment data, employer details, geolocation information, and other personal and
 26 confidential information as described herein.

27 98. Plaintiff and the Class performed their part of the contract. They stayed
 28 at Starwood Properties or otherwise used Defendant's goods and services. And they

1 allowed and continued to allow Defendant to store, maintain, and safeguard their
2 personal and confidential information.

3 99. When Plaintiff and the Class provided their personal and confidential
4 information to Defendant, they entered into implied contracts with the Defendant,
5 pursuant to which Defendant agreed to protect their information, and to timely and
6 accurately notify Plaintiff and the Class if their data had been breached or
7 compromised, in accordance with Defendant's promises in its Privacy Statement
8 and Privacy Policy.

9 100. Plaintiff and the Class would not have provided and entrusted their
10 personal and confidential information to Defendant in the absence of the implied
11 contract between them.

12 101. Plaintiff and the Class fully performed their obligation under the
13 implied contracts with Defendant.

14 102. Defendant breached the implied contracts it made with Plaintiff and the
15 Class by failing to safeguard and protect the personal and confidential information
16 of Plaintiff and the Class and by failing to provide timely and accurate notice to
17 them that their information was compromised in and as a result of the Data Breach.

18 103. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of the implied
19 contract between Defendant and Plaintiff and the Class, Plaintiff and the Class
20 sustained actual losses and damages as described herein.

21 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 **Maryland Personal Information Protection Act**

23 **Md. Comm. Code §§ 14-3501, et seq.**

24 104. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
25 each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

26 105. Md. Comm. Code § 14-3503(a) provides that "[t]o protect personal
27 information from unauthorized access, use, modification, or disclosure, a business
28 that owns or licenses personal information of an individual residing in the State shall

1 implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices that are
2 appropriate to the nature of the personal information owned or licensed and the
3 nature and size of the business and its operations.”

4 106. Defendant is a business as defined under Md. Comm. Code §§ 14-
5 3501(b)(1) and (2).

6 107. Plaintiff and the Class are “customers” as defined under Md. Comm.
7 Code §§ 14-3502(a).

8 108. Plaintiff’s and the Class’s Customer Data , as alleged herein, includes
9 “Personal Information” as defined under Md. Comm. Code § 14-3501(e)(1).

10 109. Defendant violated Md. Comm. Code § 14-3503 by failing “to maintain
11 reasonable security procedures and practices that are appropriate to the nature of the
12 personal information owned or licensed and the nature and size of the business and
13 its operations.”

14 110. The Data Breach, as alleged herein, was a “breach of the security of a
15 system” as defined by Md. Comm. Code § 14-3504(a)(1).

16 111. Md. Comm. Code § 14-3504(b)(1) provides that “[a] business that
17 owns or licenses computerized data that includes personal information of an
18 individual residing in the State, when it discovers or is notified of a breach of the
19 security of a system, shall conduct in good faith a reasonable and prompt
20 investigation to determine the likelihood that personal information of the individual
21 has been or will be misused as a result of the breach.”

22 112. Md. Comm. Code §§ 14-3504(b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(2), and (c)(3) provides
23 that “[i]f, after the investigation is concluded, the business determines that the
24 breach of the security of the system creates a likelihood that personal information
25 has been or will be misused, the business shall notify the individual of the breach”
26 and “the notification shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable.”

27 113. After Defendant discovered the Data Breach, Defendant was required
28 to disclose the Data Breach in a timely and accurate manner under Md. Comm.

1 Code §§ 14-3504(b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(2), and (c)(3).

2 114. Defendant violated Md. Comm. Code §§ 14-3504(b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(2),
3 and (c)(3) by failing to disclose the Data Breach in a timely and accurate manner.

4 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's violation of Md.
5 Comm. Code §§ 14-3504(b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(2), and (c)(3), Plaintiff and the Class
6 suffered damages as alleged herein.

7 116. Pursuant to Md. Comm. Code § 14-3508, Defendant's violation of Md.
8 Comm. Code §§ 14-3504(b)(2), (b)(3), (c)(2), and (c)(3) are an unfair or deceptive
9 trade practices under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, Md. Comm. Code §§
10 13-101, *et seq.* and subject to the enforcement and penalty provisions contained in
11 the Maryland Consumer Protection Act.

12 117. Plaintiff and the Class seek relief under Md. Comm. Code §13-408,
13 including actual damages and attorney's fees.

14 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

15 **Maryland Consumer Protection Act**

16 **Md. Comm. Code §§ 13-301, et seq.**

17 118. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
18 each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

19 119. Defendant is a "person" as defined by Md. Comm. Code. § 13-101(h).

20 120. Defendant's conduct as alleged herein related to "sales", "offers for
21 sale" or "bailment" as defined by Md. Comm. Code. § 13-101(i) and § 13-303.

22 121. Plaintiff and the Class are "consumers" as defined by Md. Comm.
23 Code. § 13-101(c).

24 122. Defendant advertised, offered, or sold "consumer goods" or "consumer
25 services" as defined by Md. Comm. Code § 13-101(d).

26 123. Defendant advertised, offered, or sold "consumer goods" or "consumer
27 services" in the State of Maryland and engaged in trade or commerce directly or
28 or indirectly affecting the people of Maryland.

124. Defendant violated Md. Comm. Code § 13-301 by engaging in unfair and deceptive trade practices, including:

- a. False or misleading oral or written statements that have the capacity, tendency, or effect of deceiving or misleading consumers;
- b. Failing to state a material fact where the failure deceives or tends to deceive;
- c. Advertising or offering consumer goods or services without intent to sell, lease, or rent them as advertised or offered;
- d. Deception, fraud, false pretense, false premise, misrepresentation, or knowing concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact with the intent that a consumer rely on the same in connection with the promotion or sale of consumer goods or services or the subsequent performance with respect to an agreement, sale lease or rental.

125. Defendant violated Md. Comm. Code § 13-303 by engaging in unfair and deceptive trade practices in connection with the offer for sale or sale of consumer goods or consumer services or services with respect to the extension of consumer credit, including:

- a. Failing to implement and maintain reasonable security and privacy measures to protect Plaintiff and Class Members' Customer Data , which was a direct and proximate cause of the Data Breach;
- b. Failing to identify foreseeable security and privacy risks, remediate identified security and privacy risks, and adequately improve security and privacy measures following previous cybersecurity incidents, which was a direct and proximate cause of the Data Breach;

- c. Failing to comply with common law and statutory duties pertaining to the security and privacy of Plaintiff's and Class's personal and confidential information, including duties imposed by the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681e, the GLBA, 15 U.S.C. § 6801, et seq., and the Maryland Personal Information Protection Act, Md. Comm. Code § 14-3501, which was a direct and proximate cause of the Data Breach;
- d. Misrepresenting that it would protect the privacy and confidentiality of Plaintiff's and Class member's personal and confidential information, including by implementing and maintaining reasonable security measures;
- e. Misrepresenting that it would comply with common law and statutory duties pertaining to the security and privacy of Plaintiff's and Class's information, including duties imposed by the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and the Maryland Personal Information Protection Act, Md. Comm. Code § 14-3501;
- f. Omitting, suppressing, and concealing the material fact that it did not reasonably or adequately secure Plaintiff's and Class's information; and
- g. Omitting, suppressing, and concealing the material fact that it did not comply with common law and statutory duties pertaining to the security and privacy of Plaintiff's and Class's information, including duties imposed by the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and the Maryland Personal Information Protection Act, Md. Comm. Code § 14-3501.

126. Defendant's representations and omission were material because they were likely to deceive reasonable consumers about the adequacy of Defendant's data security and ability to protect the confidentiality of consumers' personal and

1 confidential information. Defendant's misrepresentations and omission would have
2 been important to a significant number of consumers making financial decisions.

3 127. Defendant intended to mislead Plaintiff and the Class and induce them
4 to rely on its misrepresentations and omissions.

5 128. Had Defendant disclosed to Plaintiff and the Class that its data systems
6 were not secure and vulnerable to attack, Defendant would have been forced to
7 adopt reasonable security measures and comply with the law.

8 129. Defendant acted intentionally, knowingly, and maliciously to violate
9 Maryland's Consumer Protection Act, and recklessly disregarded Plaintiff's and the
10 Class's rights. Defendant was on notice of the possibility of the Data Breach due to
11 well-publicized data breaches occurring previously, including in the hospitality
12 industry.

13 130. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unfair and deceptive
14 acts and practices, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered and will continue to suffer
15 injury, including ascertainable losses of property, monetary and non-monetary
16 damages, including from fraud and identity theft, time and expenses related to
17 monitoring their financial accounts for fraudulent activity, and increased, imminent
18 risk of fraud and identity theft' and loss of value of their Customer Data .

19 131. Plaintiff and the Class seek all monetary and non-monetary relief
20 allowed by law, including damages, disgorgement, injunctive relief, and attorneys'
21 fees and costs.

22 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

23 **Violation of California Customer Records Act**

24 **Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.80, *et seq.***

25 **(On behalf of the California Subclass, in the alternative)**

26 132. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
27 each and every allegation set forth the in the preceding paragraphs of this
28 Complaint.

1 133. California Civil Code § 1798.81.5 clearly and expressly states the
2 intent of the legislature: “It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that personal
3 information about California residents is protected. To that end, the purpose of this
4 section is to encourage businesses that own, license, or maintain personal
5 information about Californians to provide reasonable security for that information.”

6 134. Further, California Civil Code § 1798.81.5(b) requires any “business
7 that owns, licenses, or maintains personal information about a California resident
8 [to] implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices
9 appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect the personal information from
10 unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure.”

11 135. Defendant owns, maintains, and licenses personal information, within
12 the meaning of § 1798.81.5, concerning Plaintiff and the Class.

13 136. Defendant violated Civil Code § 1798.81.5 by failing to implement
14 reasonable measures to protect the personal information of Plaintiff and the Class.

15 137. The data breach described above occurred as a direct and proximate
16 result of Defendant’s violations of Section 1798.81.5 of the California Civil Code.

17 138. California Civil Code § 1798.82(a) provides: “A person or business
18 that conduct business in California, and that owns or licenses computerized data that
19 include personal information, shall disclose a breach of the security system
20 following discovery or notification of the breach in the security of the data to a
21 resident of California whose unencrypted personal information was, or is reasonably
22 believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person. The disclosure shall be
23 made in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay”

24 139. California Civil Code § 1798.82(b) provides that “[a] person or
25 business that maintains computerized data that includes personal information that
26 the person or business does not own shall notify the owner or licensee of the
27 information of the breach of the security data immediately following discovery, if
28

1 the personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an
2 unauthorized person.”

3 140. Defendant is a business that owns or licenses computerized data that
4 includes personal information as defined by California Civil Code §§ 1798.80, *et*
5 *seq.*

6 141. In the alternative, Defendant maintains computerized data that includes
7 personal information that it does not own as defined by California Civil Code §§
8 1798.80, *et seq.*

9 142. Plaintiff and the California Subclass members’ Customer Data
10 (including but not limited to their names, email addresses, payment card numbers,
11 and driver’s license or passport numbers) includes personal information covered by
12 California Civil Code § 1798.81.5(d)(1).

13 143. Because Defendant reasonably believed that the personal information
14 of Plaintiff and the Class was acquired by unauthorized persons, it had an obligation
15 to disclose the data breach described above in a timely and accurate fashion under
16 California Civil Code California Civil Code § 1798.82(a), or in the alternative,
17 under California Civil Code California Civil Code § 1798.82(b).

18 144. Thus, by failing to disclose the data breach in a timely and accurate
19 manner, Defendant violated California Civil Code § 1798.82.

20 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

21 **Violation of Unfair Competition Law**

22 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.***

23 **(On behalf of the California Subclass, in the alternative)**

24 145. Plaintiff incorporates and realleges, as though fully set forth herein,
25 each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

26 146. Defendant has engaged in unfair competition within the meaning of
27 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”) because
28 Defendant’s conduct is unfair and unlawful as herein alleged. Plaintiff and the Class

1 were injured by Defendant's conduct because Defendant failed to properly maintain
2 Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data and unreasonably delayed in informing the
3 public, including Plaintiff and the Class, about the breach of security of Plaintiff's
4 and the Class's Customer Data after Defendant knew or should have known that the
5 data breach occurred.

6 147. Defendant's business practices, and each of them, are unfair because
7 they offend established public policy and/or are immoral, unethical, oppressive,
8 unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to consumer in that Plaintiff and the
9 Class suffered harm directly resulting from Defendant's failure to properly maintain
10 Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data and failed to provide Plaintiff and the
11 Class with timely and accurate notice. Plaintiff and the Class suffered the damages
12 alleged above as a direct result of Defendant's failure to properly maintain
13 Plaintiff's and the Class's Customer Data and its delay in providing timely and
14 accurate notice of the Data Breach. This failure constitutes a violation of the UCL.

15 148. Plaintiff and the Class are further injured when Defendant continues to
16 operate without having a proper security protocol in place. Defendant failed to
17 exercise reasonable care in implementing and maintaining reasonable procedures
18 and practice appropriate for maintaining the safety and security of Plaintiff's and the
19 Class's Customer Data in its possession, custody, and/or control. This failure
20 constitutes a violation of the UCL.

21 149. Defendant's business practices are unlawful and violates California
22 Civil Code §§ 1798.81.5 and 1798.82 as more fully set forth above.

23 150. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to relief, to the greatest extent
24 permitted by law, which may not have been obtained by Defendant as a result of
25 such business acts or practices, and enjoining Defendant from engaging in the
26 practices described herein in the future.

27 151. Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs pursuant
28 to, *inter alia*, California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the Class members pray for judgment against Defendant as follows:

a. An Order certifying the proposed Class and appointing Plaintiff as Class representative and her undersigned counsel of record as Class counsel;

b. In the alternative, an Order certifying the proposed California Subclass and appointing Plaintiff as representative of the California Subclass and her undersigned counsel of record as counsel for the California Subclass;

c. All recoverable compensatory and other damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Class members;

d. An Order permanently enjoining Defendant from engaging in the unlawful practices, and requiring it to employ reasonable and industry standard data security practices, as alleged herein;

e. All other appropriate equitable relief, including restitution and disgorgement;

f. Statutory pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on any amounts;

g. Payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

h. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all causes of action so triable.

DATED: December 6, 2018

PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP
DANIEL L. WARSHAW

By: /s/ Daniel L. Warshaw
DANIEL L. WARSHAW

Daniel L. Warshaw (Bar No. 185365)
dwarshaw@pswlaw.com

PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP
15165 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 400
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Telephone: (818) 788-8300
Facsimile: (818) 788-8104

Melissa S. Weiner (Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming)
mweiner@pswlaw.com

Joseph C. Bourne (Bar No. 308196)
jbourne@pswlaw.com

PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP
800 LaSalle Avenue, Suite 2150
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
Telephone: (612) 389-0600
Facsimile: (612) 389-0610

Alexander L. Simon (Bar No. 305734)
asimon@pswlaw.com

PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: (415) 433-9000
Facsimile: (415) 433-9008

Attorneys for Plaintiff Dianne King